

Good Afternoon Senator Harris and Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Mathew Levy and I am asking you to support Senate Bill 90.

Seven years ago, my mom had a major stroke caused by a chiropractic adjustment. I was only ten years old when it happened, but I remember being so scared that my Mom might actually die. I remember going to visit her in the hospital and I remember how bad she looked. Here was my Mom unable to move, when she had been such an active Mom, always on the go, walking 5 miles a day. I desperately wanted her to be back to being my Mom again.

When she came home from the hospital, every day when I came home from school, I would ask her if she could move yet. Each day we rejoiced over the fact that maybe a toe wiggled or she could lift one finger up, maybe a 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch.

About three years ago, I started helping my Mom with the organization she had founded. She named it VOCA, for Victims of Chiropractic Abuse. She had decided that there were far too many injuries happening to people not that much older than me, as a result of a chiropractic adjustment and something had to be done about it.

I helped her set up computer programs. Then she asked me to help other victims set up their computer programs so that they could write to each other. I spent a lot of time looking up articles that pertained to chiropractic manipulation and stroke. It is amazing how many hundreds upon hundreds of articles there are which talk about how chiropractic manipulation can cause a stroke. And it is amazing how many hundreds of victims have suffered a stroke after having a chiropractic manipulation.

Yet some chiropractors still deny it even happens, which is just ridiculous if you see the amount of stuff written over the years. In fact, in one article, it says that the first chiropractic stroke incidence was in 1937, and back then they said it was a rare when there were only 5,000 chiropractors. Well today there are over 75,000 chiropractors and many still say it is rare.

This bill should become law to protect the public. People need to be aware of everything that has a risk to it, especially if that risk is so devastating as a possible stroke, permanent disability or even death. It should be our right to know.

When the American Chiropractic Association admits in their own literature that it is true, that neck manipulation is a risk factor for stroke and the American Heart Association has on its web-site articles about how chiropractic manipulation can cause a stroke, and when in Canada there is a half billion dollar class action lawsuit that is suing the Health Minister for not properly informing patients about the risk of stroke with a chiropractic adjustment, and when a well respected chiropractor who teaches at the University of Bridgeport urges all chiropractors to tell their patients about the risks of stroke following

a chiropractic adjustment, it is TIME to let people know. And if certain groups of chiropractors refuse to tell patients, then that is when the government needs to step up and protect people.

After all that has happened to my Mom, she still isn't against chiropractors. She talks to many chiropractors all the time who are in support of this legislation. One chiropractor, in fact, called her yesterday and told her that on the American Chiropractic Association's web-site there was an article talking about the case where a young woman had died in Canada. One of the jury's recommendations was that chiropractic physicians obtain written informed consent from every patient before performing a neck adjustment and that every patient be given an information sheet with risks and stroke symptoms clearly spelled out.

That was in 2004.